August 4
1927

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR

ESTABLISHED IN 1840

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven." BOOK OF MORMON, 3 NEPHI 14: 21.

No. 31, Vol. 89 Thursday, August 4, 1927 Price One Penny

SERVING OUR DEAD*

ELDER JOHN A. WIDTSOE

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TWELVE

MY BRETHREN AND SISTERS: I have enjoyed greatly the proceedings of this conference, the valiant testimony of our President, the splendid analysis of present-day conditions by President Ivins this morning and the declaration of unshakable faith by President Nibley this afternoon. I bear testimony to the truth of that which has been spoken.

AN EVIDENCE OF THE GENUINENESS OF THE WORK

It is an evidence of the genuineness of this work that we can gather here in large numbers from conference to conference to hear taught the same simple principles. They must be true, otherwise we would not be satisfied to come here time and time again to hear expounded the few, easily understood truths of the Gospel. If a man eats good wholesome food regularly his body is kept in good condition and he feels well; physical happiness is his. If he has access to truth, accepts it and practises it regularly, he becomes spiritually contented. So I feel that these great gatherings, continually growing in numbers and importance, form a mighty evidence of the correctness of the latter-day work established through the instrumentality of Joseph Smith the Prophet.

THE POSSIBILITY OF OBEDIENCE

I am glad to know that obedience to the principles of the Gospel

*Address delivered at the second session of the Ninety-seventh Annual Conference, in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 3rd, 1927.

is not beyond my reach. A few principles, relatively, constitute the Gospel of Jesus Christ; they are given for the definite purpose of bringing happiness and joy to man in this life and in the life hereafter. It is possible for a man to obey all of them. The Lord has so ordained it that His spiritual laws are within easy comprehension and within the full power of all honest men and women to obey.

PRACTISE ALL THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GOSPEL

I should like to impress upon the Latter-day Saints that we must, as a body of worshipers, receivers of the latter-day truth, accept and practise as best we can *all* the principles of the Gospel. I observe a tendency to make a selection of the principles of the Gospel, and to say: "This one I like and shall practise; that one I am not so thoroughly converted to, and I shall not practise it." The object of the Gospel, human happiness, may be won only if one practises completely the set of laws and principles which we call the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Let me draw a comparison from the physical world. The white light that comes from the sun is made up of many colours varying from violet, through all the colours, to deep red. If we take all these colours and mix them carefully, pure white light appears, but if one colour is missing the resulting light is impure. Even so with the great spiritual spectrum—only when all the principles of the Gospel are practised with all our might are we able to win for ourselves the spiritual contentment and happiness which should characterize the private and public lives of Latter-day Saints.

OUR DUTY IN SERVING THE DEAD

As I have said, the Lord has not given us more laws than we can understand and obey. We are told to care for ourselves that we may increase in righteous stature; we are to render service to our fellowmen; and we are instructed to help open the gospel door for those who have passed into the other life without having accepted the Gospel. I desire to say something about the commandment to devote a part of our strength and means to serving the dead who have not heard or accepted the Gospel. The principle of salvation for the dead is one of the most effective in tempering human character, in making men unselfish, and in enabling them to walk in the paths laid out for mankind by the Saviour. Moreover, the doctrine of salvation for the dead unifies all the other principles of the Gospel. When we consider that this gospel principle implies that the Lord in His mercy and love for His children has made it possible for every soul who loves and will obey truth to receive salvation, we begin to glimpse the unspeakable love and the fulness of the blessings that the Lord has for His children. All that we do within the Church, whether

for ourselves or in preaching the Gospel to the living, can be interpreted in terms of this great fundamental principle which holds together all the other principles of the Gospel. "For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man." We have been told by the Prophet Joseph Smith that without our dead we cannot be saved; or, as he stated it, "their salvation is necessary and essential to our salvation." We have believed this doctrine; we believe it to-day, and as a result we have become a mighty, temple-building people, the only temple-building people in all the world to-day. There are thoughtful men who declare that the great blessings that await this people may be, after all, an effect of our possession and use of sacred houses dedicated to the Lord in which holy ordinances for the living and the dead are solemnized.

OUR NEARNESS TO THE SPIRIT WORLD

Ninety-one years ago to-day the ancient Prophet Elijah stood before Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery in the Kirtland Temple and delivered to this generation the keys of salvation for the dead. Since that event the spirit of that work has been poured out upon all nations and there has been developed a new feeling with respect to our ancestors. Men are beginning to look into the other world; and never before has the spirit-world seemed so near to us as at the present time. It seems as if President Nibley's suggestion may be carried even further than perhaps he intended—that we shall soon be able, even by mechanical means, to come so near to the veil that separates the living and the dead as to be absolutely certain, through the use of every human sense, that the vast spirit world lies about us. I speak into this microphone and by some mysterious process my words are spread throughout space, throughout an unknown world, which, yet, is known—a world that I cannot touch, and yet just as real as the world I know by touch and by every other sense. Two months ago I picked up the newspaper of that day and read on the front page that that forenoon a person in New York had called up London, and another in London had answered his New York friend over the radiophone, and that others had conversed over the instrument, through space, during the whole of that day—perhaps the most eventful day of the period since our last conference. Such developments, discoveries and new powers won by man bring us nearer to the unseen world in which, I have no doubt, the dead live among other beings of whom we have only slight knowledge. The world no longer argues, as in the past, against life hereafter, because fact crowds upon fact and the logic of men is convincing that there must be life after this, and that that life is not greatly different from the life we have lived on this side, so far as the utilization of the laws of righteousness is concerned.

SOME RESULTS OF ELIJAH'S VISIT

In yet another way has the spirit of the age been drawn toward the dead, for since the memorable visit of the Prophet Elijah men and women by the thousands have given themselves to the discovery of the genealogies of the world. Thousands of volumes have been published, dealing entirely with the records, names and salient, vital data pertaining to those who have lived upon the earth, giving us exactly the identification needed for our work in the Temples. I look upon this as one of the great gifts to our people, for, though we are one of a city and two of a family, we are nevertheless so many that we touch practically every family within the civilized parts of the world from which we have come. The necessary work in genealogy has been done for us to a great extent.

IMPORTANT WORK

Brethren and sisters assembled in this great conference, I believe the Lord requires of us that we all set our houses in order in this respect, that each man and woman, every family, set about to secure just as completely as may be possible a record of their dead, so that thereby the genealogies of the human family may be gathered and increased in number, and we may have ample material with which to labour in the Temples of the Lord. Such work is not difficult to do. It may be done by any man or woman. The intricacies of arranging names in systematic genealogies may be done by those who are experts in such work, but every man and every woman in Zion may gather names, later to be fully arranged, and should give some little time to such work. With respect to gospel principles, perhaps none is more important in developing spiritual power and strength than that which pertains to the salvation of the dead. Whether we are near a Temple or far away from it, we may be able to give some little time to the important work of gathering the names of our dead and arranging them for use in the Temples. The Church maintains the Utah Genealogical Society which upon request will give ample help in such genealogical endeavours. Likewise, to prevent duplication of temple work even when we increase in numbers, the Church has provided and completed, since our last conference, a Temple Index which permits every person who goes into a Temple to assure himself that the person for whom he is working has not been served before.

THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH RESTING UPON THE PEOPLE

Thus, within and beyond the Church the spirit of Elijah is operating and is resting upon the people. I trust that this spirit may enter even more completely into the hearts of the Latter-day Saints, that they may continue to be a temple-building

people, that we may use our Temples more abundantly, that we may provide ways and means by earnest effort through which such work may be done. I feel assured in my own heart, from my own experience and the experience of my friends, that those who give themselves in wisdom and with propriety to this work will round out their spiritual experiences, enrich their lives and find a new and abiding joy in all duties pertaining to life under the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

TESTIMONY

I know that this afternoon is a precious one. Many should be heard here to-day before this great congregation. I am happy to have had this privilege of bearing my testimony to you and of speaking briefly upon an important gospel principle. I bear witness to the existence of God, the Father of our spirits, to the divinity of Jesus Christ, His Son, to the divine mission of Joseph Smith, and to the truth of the faith that brings joy and happiness to faithful members of the Church. I know this work is true. God bless us and establish us in the testimony of the truth, I pray, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

A NEW DAY HAS DAWNED*

ELDER LEVI EDGAR YOUNG
OF THE FIRST COUNCIL OF SEVENTY

I NOTICED by an editorial in the paper this morning that a monument is to be erected in honour of the pioneer mothers of this great country of ours. I was thrilled when I read the account, and happy when I was informed a few weeks ago that the monument designed in sculpture by a Utah son, Mahonri Young, would possibly be accepted by the judges of the contest. As I see before me a number of pioneer mothers, I wish to say on this occasion that I am very grateful to God that the wonderful work of the pioneer mothers, who blazed the trails into the wilds of America, is to be recognized. For, if there ever lived fine womanhood, women who loved God and gave to the work of God all that was best, it was the pioneer mothers of this country and this great State.

THE NEEDS OF THE WORLD

Ten years ago this morning President Woodrow Wilson, before the Congress of the United States, proclaimed war against Germany, and the United States entered that great contest. You

*Address delivered at the sixth session of the Ninety-seventh Annual Conference held in the Tabernacle, Salt Lake City, Utah, April 6th, 1927.

pioneer mothers sent forth your sons and your grandsons. They fought in the war, they fell in battle, but they honoured you in maintaining the finer ideals of civilization. The war ended a few years ago; but there are some things greatly needed by all peoples of the world. The world to-day needs a higher morality, and to attain such it must recognize the existence of a divine Will and Personality more than ever before. The idea that good can be dissociated from the idea of God is wrong. The world since the war needs a finer system, not only of religion, but of effort for righteousness. This will be the greatest preventive of war. Nations must have a deeper consciousness of the personal relationship between God and the individual, and a broader philosophy of history, which attempts to unfold the divine purpose in the rise and progress of nations. What the world needs, therefore, is character, the kind of character that you pioneer mothers taught your sons and your daughters; and it is the Gospel of Jesus Christ that brings out the idea of a belief in God, a God who is righteous and loving—a Personage. This must lie at the root of character, and to-day the Latter-day Saints realize more than ever that it is revelation that gives a new impulse to the spiritual advance of humanity.

My brethren and sisters, life is a spiritual gift and a spiritual opportunity. Salvation means the recovery of life. It was the Apostle Peter who said: "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue."

TIMELY CHANGES

There has been ushered into the world a new force in history, and this was accomplished a hundred years ago by a barefoot boy, a child, who hardly had enough to eat, but who had linked his life with God's. His name was Joseph Smith. He was the "Mormon" prophet, the prophet of this new dispensation, and was born at the beginning of the nineteenth century. It was a new age of the world's history. The Government of the United States had been organized. The common man had come into his own. The Government under which we live had acclaimed for the first time in all history that man is endowed with certain inalienable rights, among which are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The Constitution of the United States had written large: "We, the people"! It was the common man who was speaking, the man upon whose shoulders rested the great work of the new age. So this new prophet came at an opportune time, for a new age had come; a new age for the extending of the message of Christ Jesus our Lord was to be ushered in.

THINGS RESTORED

To the world this Joseph Smith announced the word of God

direct from heaven. The Priesthood of God was restored with all its rights, powers and blessings. The Church of Christ was reestablished and the knowledge of man's divine relationship to God was reaffirmed. The world was given a new faith. Michelet, the French historian, said at the beginning of that century: "If there is anything in the world that is needed, it is a new faith in Christ our Lord." This, the religion of Jesus Christ, asserted with a clearer vision, a deeper knowledge, the kingdom of God and its establishment upon the earth. It teaches the truth of God the Father and the infinite value of the human soul. It restores the higher righteousness and the commandment of love. It summons all men to Christ and says to them: "Rise up and be God's children." All must labour and put their hands, hearts and minds to the work of progress. Eternal progression and the immortality of the soul give us the key to the higher life beyond. So through the work of this prophet a new day has dawned with a new sky over our heads. For in religion as in other things men are not owned any more but are guided.

TRUTH DISCERNED

This religion of Christ, our Lord, claims to-day that men of truth are living more than ever in all history. This man Joseph Smith, therefore, was not a Calvin nor a Luther nor a Zwingli. He was far more than they were; he was a prophet of fire, with a moral intensity, believing and teaching that the kingdom of heaven is near at hand. He believed and taught that wrong and injustice, unrighteousness and sin, could not stand before the oncoming of the kingdom of righteousness. The hearts of men are to be turned to usher in the kingdom and glory of God. Prophet and seer, he was the great interpreter of the Spirit of Christ to the new thought of the new world. He did not arrive at truth by a logical process. He perceived it. Truth was spiritually discerned. So to-day, for a nation to enter into this great program of peace that we are dreaming and thinking about, that nation must discern truth and light direct from God.

Christ to-day is acclaimed anew. There is a superb explanation of mind and thought and peace. Men of God are entering on the scene of action as never before. So lift up your eyes, O people of the world! The supreme drama is enacting. My brethren and sisters, may we go forth from this conference with a greater testimony burning in our hearts; may our love for humanity increase; may our faith in God deepen. Amen.

It is far better to die in a good cause than to live in a bad one; it is better to die doing good than to live doing evil.—Brigham Young.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4, 1927

EDITORIAL

"KEEP THE HOME TIES TIED"

THE IMPORTANT influence of the home upon all phases of life has long since been recognized. The leaders of our Church early realized that worthy homes and creditable lives bear to each other a relationship of cause and effect. Whenever Latter-day Saints have gone into an unsettled country they have built homes; and they have not only built them, but they have used them as such, and to good advantage.

Time was when the family dwelling was the scene of many happy reunions and the centre of interest; but, with the modern prevalence of pressing duties, cheap amusements and diverting pleasures, too many homes have become mere dwelling houses, and the congenial family gatherings that were so characteristic of days gone by are of ever diminishing recurrence.

Brigham Young appreciated the value of family unity and home training. It was his practice to gather his children around him, to counsel and direct them, and, with marked success, he implanted in their hearts a firm conviction of the wonderful truths of the Gospel of Christ.

Brigham Young's successors in the Presidency of the Church have been in harmony with the precedent he established, and many years ago a "Home Evening" was inaugurated, which means the reserving of one night of each week in every home for a family gathering, at which prayer, singing, instruction and wholesome amusement are given place.

At various times campaigns have been conducted for the purpose of encouraging widespread observance of "Home Evening", and several stakes of the Church have given particular attention to the movement, requesting that the heads of families call their children together one evening in each week and that nothing shall be allowed to interfere. Many families have consistently complied with the request, and are able to testify of the benefits derived by so doing.

Recently the *Deseret News* issued an appeal for a fuller observance of "Home Evening" and for a slogan expressive of the movement. From an unexpected source came an unusual reply to this request—a letter came from a penitentiary, written by one of the prisoners. This man speaks as one who knows, concerning the merits of tieing the home ties, and his first-hand

information is backed with bitter experience. The communication reads in part:

Editor *Deseret News*:

Your editorial on the "Back to the Home" movement should have a particular appeal to those who, like myself, are wanderers. We can appreciate such a theme more fully than the fortunate ones who have never lacked, and therefore never missed, that anchor to windward—a home. . . .

However, you called for suggestions. A line of Maupassant's has been hibernating in my mind for years: "The Chill of a Borrowed Hearth"—. . .

But what about this or something similar as a rough suggestion: Keep the Home Ties Tied . . .

Have you ever noticed that all the truly great have mastered the art of relaxation? Home is the one spot on earth's surface where we can completely relax; where the nerve-destroying, little pretenses that are necessary with strangers can be gratefully discarded.

Spend an evening each week at home. Get acquainted with your own. Keep the home ties tied.

This very true sentence might also prove useful: The Arch Enemy of Crime—The Home.

The letter was signed with the convict's prison number.

Schools may train the intellect of a youth; the business world may sharpen his wits; industries may develop skill, and social life may add its veneer and polish, but the intrinsic worth is determined, before these terms are intelligible to the potential man and woman, in the home. Here, beginning with the first impressions of early infancy, the ideals are instilled, the tendencies are developed, the character is formed, and the life is forecast, at least in outline form. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Blessed are the mothers and fathers who plant true principles deep in the hearts of their children. The memory of such parents will impel or restrain in times of trial or temptation, and their child, traveling through life, though he be separated from home by many miles and many years, will instinctively be guided aright.

The need for unity of the family in the home is becoming more pronounced with each passing year. At the last General Conference of the Church several of the General Authorities stressed the influence of the home and appealed to those assembled to put into practice the "Home Evening" plan. Members of the Church in Great Britain are urged to observe "Home Evening" wherever such is possible. "Keep the Home Ties Tied."—RICHARD L. EVANS.

EDITOR OF "DESERET NEWS" AMONG THE CHOSEN

MR. HAROLD GOFF, Editor of the *Deseret News*, is one of thirty newspaper editors selected from the Press of the entire United

States to make an extensive European tour as guests of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The journalists arrived in London on July 25th, and, during their stay of several days in the great metropolis, were received by Sir Austen Chamberlain and entertained at a banquet of the English-speaking Union. The party is now on the Continent. The itinerary includes Paris, The Hague, Berlin, Prague, Munich, Vienna, Budapest, Geneva, and many side-trips. Approximately three months will be spent in travel.

The *Deseret News* was the first newspaper established west of the Missouri River, and since its beginning has been owned and controlled by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It is one of the leading publications of Western America. To be so chosen as one of the few to make such an important tour is distinctly a notable recognition and an honour to Editor Harold Goff and to the journal and Church he represents.

HIGH TRIBUTE TO BRIGHAM YOUNG

No lapse of centuries has been required for mankind to realize the greatness of Brigham Young, who has often been compared to Joshua who led the Children of Israel into the Promised Land. While the great leader yet lived he was honoured by his own people and hosts of others for his integrity and notable accomplishments. As Latter-day Saints we recognize the divine source of his energizing force. A recent writing in *The Engineer*, a professional journal of high repute, proclaims the man of vision as he is accepted by learned men of the world outside the Church. The article follows:

When the advance guard of the Mormons reached the Great Salt Lake Basin and saw the sand and sage-brush, their hearts sank. The mountains looming up looked unfriendly. Here was none of the green grass and rich-looking soil of Illinois.

Brigham Young himself, who had led them to this place, was ill of mountain fever. For a time they were sure he would die without ever reaching his destination. He didn't die. His strength came back quickly. Under his urging the people started to work. The land was ploughed. Machinery was repaired. The new life was started.

After no more than four days in the valley, when the rest of the people were seeing the country just as it was, Brigham Young announced that here they would build their city. Each block was to be ten acres, with eight lots of an acre and a quarter each. The streets were to be wide and the houses were to be built parallel with each other, so many feet back from the curb. There were to be forty acres in the temple tract. Running water was to carry off the refuse. Trees were to be planted. Owners were not to be permitted to cut up their lots. Here was to be an ideal city. Brigham Young's followers must have smiled at his vision.

To-day you will find that vision materialized in Salt Lake City—a monument to the constructive imagination of a man who would have been a great leader in some other field if chance had not led him to Mormonism when he was young. He was only a carpenter and glazier and sort of general handy man in his youth, but, when opportunity came, he proved himself a great salesman, an administrative genius, a statesman.

No matter what your thoughts about his religion may be, you must credit this man with having made a great contribution to the development of the West. A weaker man with less ability would have led the fleeing Mormons to California. Brigham Young, knowing that work in isolation was what his people needed for their best development, ignored advice and insisted on settling on what was only a desert, but which in his eyes was a "land flowing with milk and honey." It was he and not the doubters who saw the truth.

MISSTATEMENT CORRECTED

With characteristic fairness and impartiality the *Belfast News-Letter* gave place on July 22nd to the following article, the information for which was supplied by our worthy brother, Elder Walter Pring, a retired gentleman of Belfast, Ireland, who devotes much of his time to missionary work for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The writing contains correction of certain statements which appeared in the same newspaper on July 21st, reported to have been made by Lord Desborough on the previous day. The *News-Letter* account is reproduced in full:

On Wednesday, in the House of Lords, the Marquis of Reading moved an amendment on the Aliens Restriction Bill. In opposing it, Lord Desborough made a statement to the effect that, if the amendment were carried, penniless Mormons and Doukhobors, who had given trouble in Canada, would be allowed to enter Britain.

With reference to this statement, Mr. W. Pring, of 33 Rathdrum Street, Lisburn Road, Belfast, who is himself a member of the Church of the Latter-day Saints, informs us that the Mormons never gave any trouble to the Canadian Government. He also points out that the Mormons are a wealthy people, who pay tithes to their Church, which is consequently the richest Church on earth [*per capita*]. There are no Mormons in prison or in the workhouses in Canada, and the adjective penniless, Mr. Pring asserts, is quite wrongly applied to the sect by Lord Desborough.

I would not associate with those who blaspheme the name of God, nor would I let my family associate with them. By this you may know whether you are in the path that leads to life and salvation. If you can hear the name of the Deity lightly spoken of and blasphemed, and not be shocked at it, you may know that you are not in that path.—Brigham Young.

CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS

DATES of the Fall Conferences of the British Mission are as follows:

Liverpool...	Sunday, September 4, 1927.		
Hull	,,	,, 11,	,,
Leeds	,,	,, 18,	,,
Manchester	,,	,, 25,	,,
Norwich	,,	October 2,	,,
Birmingham	,,	,, 9,	,,
Sheffield	,,	,, 16,	,,
London	,,	,, 23,	,,
Welsh	,,	,, 30,	,,
Ulster	,,	November 6,	,,
Nottingham	,,	,, 13,	,,
Free State	,,	,, 20,	,,
Bristol	,,	,, 27,	,,
Newcastle	,,	December 4,	,,
Scottish	,,	,, 11,	,,

District Presidents are requested to make early arrangements for the Conferences, and to submit their proposed programs to Mission headquarters. All members of the respective Districts should be informed and public notice be given.

Every District President is to prepare a written report showing the work done, changes in the missionary corps, new fields opened, branch organizations, percentage of increase or decrease in tithes and offerings—in short, a comprehensive history of his District. This report is to be in form suitable for reading to the congregation, and a copy is to be in readiness for the Mission President or his representative at the Conference.

FROM THE SCANDINAVIAN FIELD

SINCE 1849, when Elder Erastus Snow, a member of the Council of the Twelve, first preached the Gospel in Copenhagen, Denmark, the work of the Lord has steadily progressed in the Scandinavian countries. At first there were to be broken down barriers of prejudice that had been built slowly and solidly through centuries of superstition and oppression; and the early missionaries and converts in these northern lands suffered extreme persecution for their labours and testimonies; but the right of free speech and liberty in worship quickly spread in these countries as throughout other civilized nations.

Hundreds of Latter-day Saint missionaries have laboured in the Scandinavian countries; thousands of people have accepted

the Gospel there and have emigrated; hundreds of these have returned or have sent their sons back as Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ to bear witness to relatives and countrymen of the truthfulness of the message for which they had left their all. A large and growing membership exists there to-day.

To begin with, the entire Scandinavian peninsula and Denmark were included within the bounds of one Mission, but to expedite the work as conditions proved favourable the territory was divided, and at the present time comprises three Missions, the Danish, Norwegian and Swedish. The following excerpts from reports recently sent to the European Mission headquarters are of interest.

From the Land of the Danes: President Joseph L. Petersen of the Danish Mission reports a thirty-three per cent. increase in baptisms for the six months period compared with the same period last year, and similar progress in nearly every phase of missionary activity including meetings held, distribution of literature and hours spent in visiting investigators.

Good News from Norway: Just prior to his departure for home after honourable release President Martin Christophersen of the Norwegian Mission sent in this encouraging word: "We have had as many baptisms for the first six months of this year as we had for the whole of last year—and we have excellent prospects for more. There has been a corresponding increase in the number of gospel conversations." Continued advancement has since been reported by President Lorenzo W. Anderson, who now stands at the head of this Mission.

Progress in Sweden: From President Andrew Johnson comes word that during the first half of this year in the Swedish Mission there have been four baptisms to every one for the same period during the previous year. Many more meetings have been held, and additional baptisms are expected soon.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL TESTIMONY

Elder Harold W. England, Newcastle District

True science has contributed much that substantiates the scriptures, both ancient and modern. The testimonies of prophets, through whose instrumentality the Lord has revealed such of His mighty works as He has wished man to know, have also been proved valid by scientific research and discovery. The confusing of tongues at Babel, the literal scattering of Israel, the efficacy of the Word of Wisdom—these, among many other things, scientists have vouched for within recent years.

Records of the early inhabitants of the American Continent, inscribed by historians who lived among the people of whom

they wrote, and translated by the power of God through the Prophet Joseph Smith nearly a century ago, are repeatedly being confirmed by archæological discoveries. A recent research party, which included representatives of the American Museum of Natural History and which was backed by the Peabody Museum of Harvard, unearthed seven cities in Yucatan. The discoveries of this so-called Mason-Spinden Expedition have been recorded in book form by Gregory Mason. An account of these further findings that strengthen the abundant evidence already amassed appeared in the *Literary Digest* of a recent date under the title "Greeks of the Western World." It might more appropriately have borne the caption "Israelites of the Western World" for the people who built up the civilization in question are assuredly of the House of Israel. Quoting from Mr. Mason's book, *Silver Cities of the Yucatan*, the article states:

During the years when Henry II and his two sons, Richard and John, were reigning over all England, still primitive in many ways under an exceedingly thin veneer of Norman culture, there existed in Yucatan a civilization whose ethical standards were far higher, although it had long passed its zenith. For the Mayas who had developed it had been conquered by the Toltecs, much as the Greeks had been conquered by the Romans. . . . The Maya civilization was old then. Its oldest inscribed date is 98 B. C., according to our computation of time. The earliest date at present, in "the dim record of these people", has been found by Dr. Spinden to be August 6, 613 B. C. . . . But between that time and 98 B. C. are "clouds and thick darkness." Yet a rift may come any day. That is what makes archæological exploration in Central America and Yucatan so peculiarly alluring.

A striking parallel to these facts is contained in the Book of Mormon, for in it we learn that the Western Continent was inhabited by a colony of people led there by the Lord from the Eastern Continent shortly after the confusing of tongues. These people, known in the sacred record as Jaredites, built cities and became highly cultured. However, in time they split into warring factions and finally exterminated themselves, becoming a "vanished people", approximately 600 B. C.

At about this time, however, we find that another company landed on the western shores of America. They too attained a high degree of civilization and spread northward over the land formerly occupied by the Jaredites. One division of the original immigrants, the people of which later became known as Nephites, also became extinct about 400 A. D. Those who composed the other division, known as Lamanites, are represented by the American Indians of to-day.

The "clouds and thick darkness" referred to, which hang over the archæological record, are cleared away by the Book of Mormon account, and the claims of the latter are in turn strengthened by archæological testimony.

FROM THE MISSION FIELD

Releases and Departures: Elder Clennel J. Neville, honorably released President of the Norwich District, sailed for his home in America on July 27th from Southampton, aboard the *Majestic.* Elder George F. Deem, who has labonred in the Nottingham and Norwich Distriets, has been honourably released and sailed for his home in America aboard the *George Washington* from Southampton on July 28th. Elder Owen J. Carlisle, who has labonred in the Birmingham and Manchester Districts, has been honourably released and sailed for his home in America aboard the *Montclare* from Liverpool on July 29th. Elder Kenneth H. Malin, of the Seottish and Hull Districts, has been honorably released and left on July 27th to return to his home in America by way of the Continent and the Orient. Elder Ray R. Murdock, of the Sheffield and Seottish Districts, has been honourably released and sailed for his home in America aboard the *Celtic* on July 30th.

Doings in the Districts: *Manchester*—In celebration of Pioneer Day members and investigators of the Manchester District met at Heaton Park on Saturday afternoon, July 23rd. Games were played and a track meet was held; prizes were awarded to the sneeessful contestants of the events. At the Manchester chapel in the evening of the same day a farewell social was held in honour of Elder N. Glenn Stanford, recently transferred to the Ulster District. A well-rendered program was presented.

Norwich—Friday, July 22nd, one person was baptized in the sea near Lowestoft by President Clemuel J. Neville and later confirmed by President Alexander J. Bryan. Farewell socials were held on July 21st and 22nd in Norwich and Lowestoft, respeetively, in honour of President Neville and Elder George F. Deem prior to their return home.

Nottingham—At an impressive service held at Arnold, Nottinghamshire, on Thnrsday, July 21st, two persons were baptized into the Church by President Waldo L. Osmond. Those offieiating in the confirmations were President Osmond and Elder Rulon W. Stevenson. The Eastwood Branch held a Sunday Sehool outing at Eastwood on Saturday, July 23rd. A good time was enjoyed by all those in attendance. Elder Rulon W. Stevenson has been appointed Clerk of the Nottingham Distriet.

Sheffield—The missionaries of the Sheffield District met in a monthly report meeting on Saturday, July 23rd. The results reported demonstrated the efficiency of Sunday and evening tracting. Following this meeting, the missionaries eelebrated Pioneer Day with the members of the Sheffield Branch. A pageant depieting pioneer scenes was presented, after which an afternoon of outdoor recreation was enjoyed in Firth Park.

Ulster—On July 26th the Traveling Elders of the Ulster District

met in a missionary session. Encouraging reports were given and plans made for greater results in the future. Elder Walter Pring, a resident member, more than eighty years of age, has been labouring zealously as a missionary. During July Brother Pring sold 1,102 pamphlets, 101 in a single day, and distributed other literature in proportion. The local brethren are working diligently.

Words from the Workers: Last week we spent in the country, visiting isolated members, and tracting. The people in general were willing to listen to our message and we were greatly encouraged. During the short period we distributed more than 1,600 tracts, 176 pamphlets and 3 copies of the Book of Mormon. We also obtained two subscriptions for the *Millennial Star.*—*From President Kendall D. Garff and Elder Boyd W. Madsen, Ulster District.*

I recognize the blessings I have received in my days, but I find nothing in my life which approaches this year's experience. It has given me a well defined aim, an ideal to cherish and ambition to accomplish the very best within me. It has kindled the spiritual hope and confidence which nothing else in the world can give. It vitalizes life and opens a vision of what may be realized through honest, eternal striving.—*From President Cecil B. Kenner, Sheffield District.*

DEATH

ARMITAGE—Sister Eliza Dixon Armitage died at her home in Burley, Idaho, U. S. A., on June 6th, at the age of sixty-seven. Sister Armitage has been a faithful worker in the Church for many years, and emigrated from the Leeds District in 1904. She is survived by her husband, Brother Isaac Armitage. (Received late, published by request.)

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EDITED, PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY JAMES E. TALMAGE, 295 EDGE LANE

LIVERPOOL

FOR SALE IN ALL THE DISTRICTS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN GREAT BRITAIN